

**REMARKS**

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1–16 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

The Specification was objected to because the title of the invention was not descriptive. In response, Applicants have provided a new title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are drawn. Applicants have also provided a new Abstract in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, Applicants believe this objection has been overcome.

Claims 1–16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilhooley et al. (GB 2275800 A) in view of Staats (U.S. Patent 6,618,750). The Examiner argues: “The cited information processing device includes terminal for connecting the sub-information processing devices (see Fig. 2) with a predetermined connection (serial bus, see “IEEE 1394”).” (Office Action page 3) However, the present invention has “a plurality of terminals for connecting to a plurality of sub-information processing devices with a

corresponding plurality of connecting means; at least one of said connecting means being said communication means.” (Claim 1; Claims 4, 7, 9, 12, and 15 contain similar limitations) Hence, the present invention’s audio amplifier has a number of different types of connections, rather than a predetermined type as argued by the Examiner. Further, one of the connections in the present invention must be the serial bus which is not only used to connect with a device, but is also used to connect with the computer. For example, the audio amplifier has a serial bus connection 12 which is connected to MD player 3 and is in turn connected to personal computer 2 through serial bus 8. (Figure 1) “For sub-information processing devices connected to the main information processing device through said communication means, the name data includes unique manufacturer and chip numbers.” (Claim 1; Claims 4, 7, 9, 12, and 15 contain similar limitations) The unique manufacturer and chip numbers are described on page 11 of the specification and shown in Figure 6. In this manner, devices connected through the serial bus can be specifically identified by make and model, rather than only being generally identified by type (e.g. video input 1). Although Gilhooley does provide for manufacturer identification, this requires the user to manually set dip switches and does not provide for identification by unique chip numbers. (Gilhooley page 15, lines 2-13) Moreover, the present invention has “a main information processing device controlled by a control device through a communication means” with “said communication means being a serial bus, said main information processing device being an amplifier, and said control device being a computer.” (Claim 1; Claims 4, 7, 9, 12, and 15 contain similar limitations) In other words, the present invention requires a computer receive the names of devices connected to an amplifier through a serial bus. Neither Gilhooley nor Staats show this combination. Specifically, Gilhooley only shows an amplifier and not a connected computer; while Staats discloses connecting devices and distributing driver software

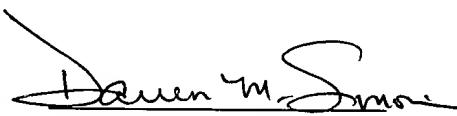
over a network. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Gilhooley and Staats fail to obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,  
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